THE

GLEMSFORD URBAN DISTRICT.

In the Administrative County of West Suffolk and the Sudbury Union.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1907.

Prepared in accordance with the Regulations of the Local Government Board and of the West Suffolk County Council.

Population 1891, 2375; 1901, 1975. Area in Acres 2246. Number of persons per acre 0.9.

Inhabited houses 456. Average Number of persons per house 4.3.

Geological formation: boulder clay with intercalating beds of drift sands and gravel, Chalk underlying on highest ground at a depth of about 130 ft.

The Parish of Glemsford, which formed part of the Melford Rural District, obtrained Urban Powers on the 1st October, 1896 and became a separate district. This is the Eleventh Annual Report to the Glemsford Urban District Council.

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS. The number of births registered during the year was 40 equivalent to a birth-rate of 20.3 per 1000 of the population. The birth-rates during the previous seven years were as follows:

	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.
Births	47	50	40	46	46	41	32	40
Birth-rate	19.7	25.4	20.3	23.2	23.2	20.7	16.2	20.3

DEATHS. The number of deaths from all causes registered during the year was 28, to which have to be added 4 deaths of persons belonging to the district, which occurred in the Workhouse, Sudbury, making the total deaths 32, equivalent to a death rate of 16.2 per 1000 of the population. The deaths and death rates during the previous seven years were as follows:

	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.
Deaths	30	50	30	37	26	32	28	32
Death-rate	12.6	25.4	14.2	18.2	13.1	16.2	14.1	16.2

Infantile Mortality. There were 8 deaths under one year of age equivalent to 200.0 per 1000 of births registered.

The following is the record for the last seven years:

	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.
Deaths of children under one year	7	18	7	7	6	4	2	8
Rate per 1000 of births registered	149.0	360.0	163.1	152.1	130.4	97.7	62.5	200.0

The average Infantile mortality for the last ten years was 7.5 or 145.2. This is much higher than it ought to be; compared with surrounding districts.

In Rural England and Wales for 1907 it was 106 per 1000 of Births registered.

Deaths from Zymotic Diseases. One from Diphtheria.

Deaths from other Causes. There were three deaths from Phthisis, none from Cancer, five from Bronchitis and Pneumonia, six from Heart Diseases, eleven of the deaths were of persons over the age of 65.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFICATION. The number of cases notified during the year was 13, and consisted of Diphtheria nine, Erysipelas three, Scarlet Fever one.

The cases of Diphtheria were spread over the year, and were mostly among school children; inspection of their dwellings failed to discover any insanitary condition which could account for this disease, and therefore attention was directed to the Schools and their offices. In the latter some sanitary improvements were recommended, which have been carried out. In each case of Diphtheria Antitoxin Serum was supplied. One of the cases terminated fatally.

There was only one case of Scarlet Fever, which was effectually isolated at home, and no further cases occurred, in due course the house was disinfected.

WATER SUPPLY. The waterworks maintain an abundant supply from the deep boring. Though the quality of the water is one of great organic purity, the presence of a trace of iron in suspension, causes at times some discoloration, and hence complaints; yet at the same time though objectionable, this trace of iron is not at all harmful, nor impairs the good quality of the water. With the view of trying to eliminate the iron altogether, the Council have consulted Mr J. T. Eayrs, the engineer of the waterworks. He has submitted a sample to the Birmingham Analyst, who reports that there is only a ¼ grain of iron to the gallon, which is less than it was two years ago, when the regular pumping commenced, so that the iron is diminishing; and I have no doubt that in a few more years it will have disappeared. Mr. Eayrs makes report that if a process of compressed air pressure and filtration were adopted, the iron could be entirely removed at once. His report is at present under consideration.

The following is the Report of the Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector, Mr. H. L. Taylor.

Since the beginning of April all the old public pumps have been out of use.

Number of houses connected with the new Water supply, 345. Daily average consumption per head, about 5 gallons.

SEWERAGE. No new sewers were laid down this year.

Number	of New Pail Closets constructed	9
,,	of Privy Cesspools converted into Pail Closets	11
,,	of Nuisances removed by written notices	14
,,	of Nuisances removed by verbal notices	56
,,	of Inspections made	430
,,	of Houses condemned as unfit for human habitation	2

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS. Two complaints were received from H.M. Inspector of Factories, with respect to sanitary conveniences, in one the defect was at once remedied, and in the other nothing was required to be done, the Inspector being misled by erroneous information.

There are five factories in the district, two of these are horsehair weaving, no cases of anthrax have occured for several years. There are 25 workshops, including 5 bakehouses, all have been inspected and any sanitary defects found were at once remedied. Out workers dwellings, to the number of 49, were visited and found satisfactory.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS. There is only one registered Cowshed and Dairy in the district, all the cows are grass grazed. It has been inspected and fulfills all the requirements as prescribed in the model regulations 1905.

In addition to this there are eight persons who keep 2 or 3 cows each and have cowsheds for same and small dairies, they generally make butter, chiefly for themselves, though they sell some milk and butter to their neighbours. All of these have been inspected during the year, and were found to be kept in accordance to the provisions of the Dairy, Cowshed and Milkshop Order.

GENERAL SANITATION. Systematic as well as special inspections have been made throughout the district. Much has been done of late years to improve the sanitary condition of the district. There is now a good water supply. Many new sewers have been laid down, and recurrent nuisances from privy cesspools and other causes have been remedied, yet as already referred to, the Infantile Mortality is too high. This to some extent is due to want of care and knowledge in maintaining the health of both mothers and infants during the lying-in period, and to the risks of bottle feeding, while the mothers have to go out to do factory work. What is much required is the service of a District and Maternity Nurse, whose help in these respects would be found most valuable. No doubt the Board of Guardians would assist in this matter as it does in other parishes.

Tabular statements, according to the form supplied by the Local Government Board, of sickness and mortality within the district, are appended to the official reports. Also a tabular statement according to the form required by the West Suffolk County Council.

J SINCLAIR HOLDEN, M.D.

Medical Officer of Health.